

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 10033 191804Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 102025

O P 191605Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1844

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USUN NY PRIORITY 1489

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 10033

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: MEETING WITH BITSIOS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY LONG PRIVATE CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT WITH FONMIN BITSIOS (SEPTEL), HE ALSO TOLD ME OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS ON SEVERAL BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH MATTERS.

2. AIR SPACE. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AND CAGLAYANGIL DID NOT SPEND MUCH TIME ON THE AIR SPACE QUESTION BUT DID AGREE THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WOULD RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT SOON. HE SAID THAT A MAJOR STICKING POINT CONTINUED TO BE THE TURKISH DESIRE FOR WHAT THE GREEKS CONSIDER EXCESSIVE AND UNWARRANTED NOTIFICATION CONCERNING GREEK MILITARY FLIGHTS TO GREEK ISLANDS IN THE EASTERN AEGEAN. HE SAID ONE OF CAGLAYANGIL'S ADVISERS HAD SURFACED AGAIN IN THE BRUSSELS MEETING THE TURKISH DESIRE TO BE NOTIFIED OF SUCH FLIGHTS WHEN THE AIRCRAFT PASSED A QTE MID-LINE UNQTE IN THE AEGEAN FLYING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION. BITSIOS SAID THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 10033 191804Z

ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF A LONG-STANDING TURKISH STRA-

TEGIC OBJECTIVE OF TRYING TO DIVIDE THE AEGEAN DOWN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. BITSIOS SAID HE TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT THAT WAS OUT AND THAT GREECE WOULD NEVER AGREE TO ANY SUCH NOTIFICATION. BITSIOS SAID THEY DECIDED TO REASSIGN THIS SUBJECT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES AND NEGOTIATORS AND TO SET A DATE SOON -- PROBABLY EARLY NEXT YEAR -- TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. CONTINENTAL SHELF. BITSIOS SAID HE AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD HAD A SOMEWHAT LONGER DISCUSSION IN BRUSSELS OF THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THE NEXT STEPS FOR SUBMISSION OF THEIR DESPUTE TO THE WORLD COURT. BITSIOS SAID HE TOLD CAGLAYANGIL QUITE FORTHRIGHTLY THAT THE GOG DID NOT APPRECIATE THE LAST TURKISH NOTE ON THIS SUBJECT OF A FEW WEEKS AGO WHICH HAD BEEN RELEASED TO THE PRESS IN ANKARA EVEN BEFORE IT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE GOG. THAT WAS HARDLY THE APPROACH OR THE SPIRIT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS COMPLEX AND IMPORTANT ISSUE. BITSIOS SAID CAGLAYANGIL CONTINUED TO ARGUE FOR BI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES TO TRY AND SETTLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE DISPUTE WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE WORLD COURT, LEAVING ONLY UNRESOLVED POINTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT. BITSIOS' POSITION CONTINUED TO BE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SUBMIT THE DISPUTE TO THE WORLD COURT SINCE THE BASIC QUESTION -- ON WHICH THEY OBVIOUSLY COULD NEVER AGREE BY THEMSELVES -- WAS THE QTE DELIMITATION UNQTE OF THE SHELF IN THE AEGEAN. THEREFORE, BITSIOS HAD SAID TO CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS THAT THE ONLY THING TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WAS THE TEXT OF THEIR QTE COMPROMIS UNQTE WHICH THEY WOULD JOINTLY SUBMIT TO THE COURT, AS HAD BEEN AGREED EARLIER THIS YEAR. CAGLAYANGIL THEN REQUESTED BITSIOS TO RECONSIDER THE TURKISH PROPOSAL MOST CAREFULLY AND SEE WHETHER HERE MIGHT NOT BE SOME GIVE IN THE GREEK POSITION. AS A RESULT, AND AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE GOG AND WITH ITS LEGAL ADVISERS, BOTH GREEK AND FOREIGN, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD NOW DRAFTED A NEW NOTE ON THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 10033 191804Z

SUBJECT WHICH IT WOULD BE TRANSMITTING TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. BITSIOS GOT OUT A COPY OF THE DRAFT NOTE IN FRENCH AND WENT OVER IT WITH ME. THE NOTE REPLIES TO THE TURKISH NOTE ON THIS SUBJECT OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND CONTAINS A LONG RESTATEMENT OF THE BASIC GOG POSITION. HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE SPECIALLY IMPORTANT PARAGRAPH AND A NEW

POINT IN IT. THIS PARAGRAPH REPRESENTS ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE GOG POSITION AND WAS A FAR AS GREECE WAS PREPARED TO GO, BITSIOS SAID. THE ESSENCE OF THE PARAGRAPH IS THAT QTE SINCE NEGOTIATIONS ARE REQUIRED UNQTE BETWEEN THE GOG AND GOT REPRESENTATIVES TO DRAFT THE QTE COMPROMISE UNQTE, IF DURING THE COURSE OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO MAKE PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT ELIMINATE SOME OF THE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THOSE PROPOSALS WOULD BE QTE MOST CAREFULLY CONSIDERED UNQTE BY THE GOG.

5. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HAD INDICATED TO CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS THAT THE LATTER COULD EXPECT THIS NOTE FROM THE GOG IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD AGREED TO STUDY THE GREEK NOTE WITH GREAT CARE AND REPLY TO IT PROMPTLY. BITSIOS SAID HE AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD ALSO AGREED THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT WOULD RELEASE SUCH NOTES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FUTURE.

6. I ASKED BITSIOS IF THE QUESTION OF QTE OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE AEGEAN UNQTE WHICH CAGLAYANGIL HAD REFERRED TO IN HIS STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 5 (PROBABLY MEANING GREEK MILITARIZATION OF ISLANDS) HAD COME UP, AND BITSIOS SAID THAT IT HAD NOT. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY, BITSIOS ALSO SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF QTE MINORITIES UNQTE -- ALSO EARLIER REFERRED TO PUBLICLY BY CAGLAYANGIL -- HAD NOT COME UP EITHER.

7. COMMEND: BITSIOS WAS ALSO SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY HIS DISCUSSION OF THESE BILATERAL POINTS WITH CAGLAYANGIL, AS HE HAD BEEN ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND CAGLAYANGIL FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE ONCE AGAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ATHENS 10033 191804Z

AND ASSUMED THAT CAGLAYANGIL -- WHOM HE RESPECTS AND LIKES -- MUST ONCE AGAIN HAVE GOTTEN SUPPORT WITHIN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS THE TURKISH MILITARY AS WELL, FOR HIS GENERAL VIEWS ABOUT RESOLVING PROBLEMS WITH GREECE ON CYPRUS AND IN THE AEGEAN. BITSIOS NOTICED ALSO THAT THE TURKISH OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING CAGLAYANGIL IN THEIR BILATERAL MEETING -- WHO IN THE PAST HAD BEEN ARGUMENTATIVE AND SOMEWHAT STIFF -- WERE ALSO MORE CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN THEIR COMMENTS. BITSIOS, WHO IS INCAPABLE OF EUPHORIA -- AND IS NOT INFREQUENTLY DOUR, CRITICAL AND COMPLAINING -- WAS ABOUT AS HAPPY AND ENCOURAGED ABOUT GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AS I HAVE SEEN HIM SINCE HE BECAME FOREIGN MINISTER A YEAR AGO.

KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, AIRSPACE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS10033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0027
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751225/aaaaavzp.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: MEETING WITH BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS), (CAGAYANGIL, IHSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006